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France wants to strengthen trade and political ties with Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - France is committed to strengthening economic and political ties with Malaysia, including co-operating in the global effort against terrorism.

Its Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Renaud Muselier, said the country had many things to offer Malaysia including expertise in construction, water treatment, transportation and satellites.

"I am here to convey France's commitment to co-operate with Malaysia on the international front, such as on the issue of terrorism. We are greatly committed to forging closer ties with Southeast Asia," he said in an interview here.

Muselier, who was visiting Malaysia for a day, met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, French Ambassador Xavier Driencourt and members of the French community in Malaysia.

He also took time off to visit the Petronas Twin Towers.

He said the visit here was to convey President Jacques Chirac's stand on his Government's intention to forge closer bilateral ties with Malaysia.

"I have met Dr Mahathir and we spoke on bilateral ties and improving the economic relationship. Political ties between Malaysia and France have been very warm and cordial.

"I am confident that both our countries can forge closer ties as France has a unique vision of the world, which Malaysia also shares," Muselier said.

Born in 1959 in Marseille, Muselier has been a National Assembly Deputy for the 5th Bouches-du-Rhone constituency since 1993.